

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: New Jersey	
COUNTY: Essex	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER OCT 30 1972	DATE

1. NAME	
COMMON: St. John's Church (RC)	
AND/OR HISTORIC:	

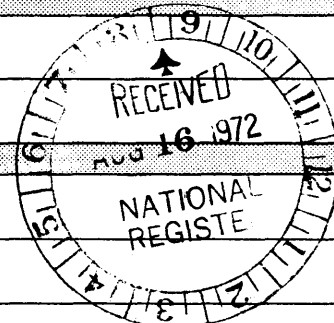
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: 22-26 Mulberry Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Newark			
STATE: New Jersey	CODE: 34	COUNTY: Essex	CODE: 013

3. CLASSIFICATION			
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS
☐ District ☐ Site ☐ Object ☒ Building ☐ Structure	☐ Public ☒ Private ☐ Both	Public Acquisition: ☐ In Process ☐ Being Considered	☒ Occupied ☐ Unoccupied ☐ Preservation work in progress
ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC			
Yes: ☒ Restricted ☐ Unrestricted ☐ No			
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
☐ Agricultural ☐ Commercial ☐ Educational ☐ Entertainment	☐ Government ☐ Industrial ☐ Military ☐ Museum	☐ Park ☐ Private Residence ☒ Religious ☐ Scientific	☐ Transportation ☐ Other (Specify) _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY			
OWNER'S NAME: St. John's Church (RC)			
STREET AND NUMBER: 22-26 Mulberry Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Newark	STATE: New Jersey	CODE: 34	

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION			
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Essex County Hall of Records			
STREET AND NUMBER: High Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Newark	STATE: New Jersey	CODE: 34	

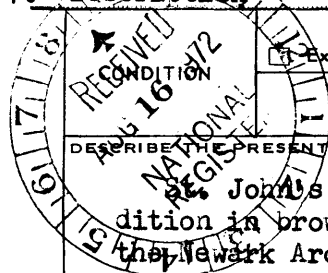
6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS			
TITLE OF SURVEY: New Jersey Historic Sites Inventory			
DATE OF SURVEY: ☐ Federal ☒ State ☐ County ☐ Local			
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Historic Sites Section			
STREET AND NUMBER: Box 1420			
CITY OR TOWN: Trenton	STATE: New Jersey	CODE: 34	



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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7. Descriptive

	(Check One)					
	☐ Excellent	☒ Good	☐ Fair	☐ Deteriorated	☐ Ruins	☐ Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	☐ Altered	☒ Unaltered	☐ Moved ☒ Original Site			
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE						
St. John's Church is of the "English Norman Perpendicular" Gothic tradition in brownstone. It stands between the Convent and Rectory facing the Newark Archdiocese Chancery. The area surrounding the church has been cleared by an urban renewal project. Citing Paul V. Flynn's <u>History of St. John's Church</u> - 1908: "Chapter V The Art of St. John's -----that the first substantial stone church erected by the Catholics in New Jersey should possess features of artistic construction comparable with the best tradition of Christian architecture, is due to the fact that the early constructors were careful to plan walls of sufficient strength to conform with the later improvements, which were inaugurated by the Reverend Patrick Moran. The original church was in the pointed style, but far less elaborate and chaste, than is the present beautiful facade." "The material of the facade of St. John's is a brown stone of enduring quality and the style of architecture is a pure type of the English Norman perpendicular such as may be seen in the beautiful Cathedral of York in England. /The facade is severely plain; ornate details are not attempted, and every line attests utility; each tower is surmounted by four graceful pinnacles;" (constructed perhaps by 1847, but by the 1858 consecration) "the profile of the mouldings of the piers and shafts is shaped with due regard to the eye of the spectator; the moulds of the weatherings, with their simple indication of use and entire absence of attempt at ornamentation, conform in every way to the chaste simplicity of the structure. The walls are surmounted with a parapet" (recently removed) "in the Norman style, which is a somewhat unique feature to find introduced into American practice at the time this construction was planned." "The architect, Father Moran, knowing the limitations of modern art, did not attempt to rival the ancient structures of Europe. Familiar though he was with wonderful detail,.....". "While St. John's facade is in the type of Norman perpendicular architecture, it possesses in its interior a type that is not Gothic but rather Classic, and the combination of these two types in a structure was due evidently to the limitations imposed upon the designer by conditions over which he had no control. The Gothic type of architecture, daring and impressive, depending upon lightness and height for its effects, would require more funds than the architect had at his disposal, while the Classic type, requiring massive construction, would not serve so well a Christian temple. The architect happily united to an artistic temperament a most practical mind, and the combination of the two types formed a most pleasing interior...". "The rectangular interior is relieved by the beautiful Gothic windows, and the delicate curve" (nearly flat) "of the ceiling removes all aspect of squareness. Three recessed Gothic arches enclose the altars, joined to one another by delicately carved and pinnacled shafts. The three arches are fringed with trefoils and the recessed main arch is filled with admirably executed carving." "The main altar is unique in its details. It might seem at first sight to be chiselled throughout of rare wood. The design represents the idea of Father Moran in the facade of the Church" as Moran planned it "the two Main Towers in Norman perpendicular ..." "The decoration of the Church" interior "is ornate..." As stated elsewhere, the altar has been changed (wood deteriorating) and the other decor simplified to reduce maintenance.						

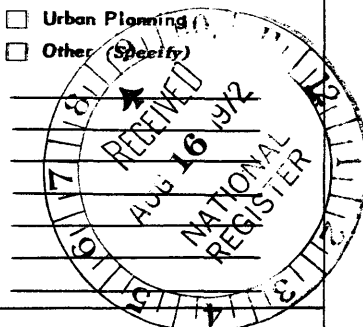
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. Significance

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
☐ Pre-Columbian	☐ 16th Century	☐ 18th Century	☐ 20th Century
☐ 15th Century	☐ 17th Century	☒ 19th Century	
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1826-28, 1838, 1847-58			
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
☐ Aboriginal	☐ Education	☐ Political	☐ Urban Planning
☐ Prehistoric	☐ Engineering	☒ Religion/Philosophy	☐ Other (Specify)
☐ Historic	☐ Industry	☐ Science	
☐ Agriculture	☐ Invention	☐ Sculpture	
☒ Architecture	☐ Landscape	☐ Social/Humanitarian	
☒ Art	☐ Architecture	☐ Theater	
☐ Commerce	☐ Literature	☐ Transportation	
☐ Communications	☐ Military		
☐ Conservation	☐ Music		
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE			
Oldest Catholic parish in New Jersey - from assemblage 11/25/1826, land deed 3/2/1827, originally built 1827-28 - cornerstone 1827, dedicated 1828. Bishop Hughes of New York in 1846 described St. John's as 2nd oldest Roman Catholic building in New Jersey. First consecrated Roman Catholic in New Jersey - May 1858. Architecturally, a curious Gothicized structure deriving from many additions, replacements and modifications, successively from 1828-1858. The original structure attributed to Reverend Gregory Bryan Pardow (called Mr. Perdue by Shaw), was believed incorporated in some fashion by Father Patrick Moran in the rebuilding of 1838 subsequently added to by Moran c.1847 and presumably by him up to c.1858 consecration. Father Moran, who served St. John's as pastor for 33 years starting 1833, is widely acknowledged as "the father of Catholicism in Newark". Father Moran, acting as his own architect, was an architectural scholar familiar with Old World proto-type and a skilled artisan whose own hands did many of the carved works still displayed or stored in the basement, in old St. John's. Shaw: "...the oldest Catholic church in Newark, and was designed by Father Moran who possessed a refined artistic taste and much mechanical ingenuity. He drew the original plans, and also laid out the plaster mouldings and ornaments of the ceiling and assisted in putting them on." He is credited with much of the architecture of St. Patrick's Pro-Cathedral in Newark - of the period 1846-50 including doing mouldings personally, and designed the old St. Peter's in Belleville. Father Moran was born in Ireland about 1798, migrated to the U.S. in 1827, attended St. Mary's in Emmitsburg, Maryland, completed theological studies under Professor Brute (later Bishop), was ordained 1832, and appointed to St. John's by Bishop DuBois. He became first Vicar General of the then Diocese of Newark upon its establishment in 1853 in addition to the St. John's pastorate. Archbishop McCluskey of Albany, the first U.S. Cardinal, described him as "of a highly cultivated mind" and "wit". It was Father Moran who established the first circulating library in Newark - of 850 books - early in his pastorate, and was a very literary figure. Moran did the carved baptismal font pictures in Paul V. Flynn's book and various elaborated Gothic woodcarved altars, - one of which is a general likeness or replica of the church facade - or twin square-towered Gothic cathedrals. Various somewhat age-deteriorated altars and other carved works by Father Moran have been removed to basement storage and replaced by simpler more modern appointments. The architectural simplification of recent years, to minimize maintenance by a largely vanished parish in a vastly changed downtown area, have not helped the charm of the church, but they have not yet destroyed it beyond restoration, either. (Continued)			

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

The Catholic Church in New Jersey, Joseph M. Flynn, 1904.
History of St. John's Church, Paul V. Flynn, 1908.
Order of Alhambra tablet on front of church.
Shaw's History of Hudson and Essex Counties, New Jersey, p. 508-509.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 0 0	0 0 0		40 44 15	74 09 58	
NE	0 0 0	0 0 0				
SE	0 0 0	0 0 0				
SW	0 0 0	0 0 0				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: <u>Donald W. Geyer, architectural historian</u>	
ORGANIZATION	DATE <u>10/71</u>
STREET AND NUMBER: <u>351 Broad Street</u>	
CITY OR TOWN: <u>Newark</u>	STATE <u>New Jersey</u> CODE <u>34</u>

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☒

Name

Richard J. Sullivan

Title

Commissioner, Department of Environmental Protection

Date

August 7, 1972

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Robert M. Utley
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date

10/30/72

ATTEST:

William M. Bennett
 Keeper of The National Register

Date

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(Continuation Sheet) (1)

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St. John's Church (RC)

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Essex Code: 013

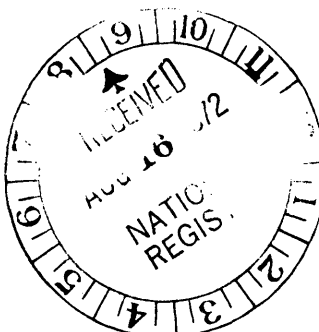
Section 7: Continued

P.V.Flynn goes on with pages of detailed description of the art works and their religious symbolism.

Section 8: Continued

The church still doubles as a chapel (open mid-days) for downtown and the adjacent Catholic institutions including the Newark Archdiocese Chancery erected across the street from St. John's.

A bronze tablet to the right front of the main entrance is inscribed:
"St. John's Roman Catholic Church. This tablet erected to commemorate the establishment of the first Roman Catholic Parish in the State of New Jersey on November 25, 1826. Erected by the Order of the Alhambra February 12, 1949"



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(Continuation Sheet) (2)

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New Jersey Code: 34
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Congressional Representation

Clifford P. Case
Harrison A. Williams
Peter W. Rodino

United States Senator
United States Senator
Congressman (10th District)





NPS Number

Oct 30, 1972

Title:

St. John's Church
Lakeside, N.J.

Loc.

Frontal Façade
Camera facing West

after removal, alteration of
pinnacle - finial details
front from W.

SUBJECT:

St. John's Ch. (P.C.)

LOCALITY:

Newark, N.J.

SOURCE:

D. W. Geyer

1971